

U.S. Application No. 10/621,995 – Filed: July 17, 2003
Amendment Dated: March 25, 2004
Reply to Office Action Dated: January 13, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) In a device for conditioning of printing stock (2), especially paper sheets or paper webs, with a tempering zone (10), characterized by the printing stock (2) being in contact with at least one endless cloth (12) that absorbs moisture, at least two transport rolls (11), on which the endless cloth is tightened, and at least one heating device (13), whereby the endless cloth (12) that absorbs moisture is heated and the heating device (13) is situated within the space wrapped around by the endless cloth (12), a method comprising the steps:

heating of transport rolls (11) with a heating device (13);
heating of the endless cloth (12) stretched around the transport rolls (11);
heating of a printing stock (2) by contact with endless moisture-absorbing cloth (12); **and**

release of the moisture of the heated stock (2) to an endless moisture-absorbing cloth (12), transport of the printing stock (2) through a tempering zone (10) by contact with the endless cloth (12), blowing moisture out of the endless cloth by a blower (15, 16);

transporting the stock (2) through an evaporation zone (20); and
cooling of a stock (2) in the evaporation zone (2) by evaporation.

2. (Cancelled)

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3. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1, further including the following steps:

~~transport of the stock (2) through an evaporation zone (20);~~
~~cooling of the stock (2) in the evaporation zone (20) by evaporation;~~
~~transporting of the stock (2) through a cooling zone (3);~~
cooling of the stock (2) by contact with at least one endless moisture-absorbing cloth (32);
blowing moisture out of the endless cloth with a blower (33); and
release of the stock (2) from the conditioning device (1).